

Andover Middle School

February 1, 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

MR. BRETT WHITE

State Assessments

State assessments are quickly approaching. These assessments are a vital part of our school improvement process. In addition, the information that parents receive from state assessments provides excellent data about how their students are performing. The following dates are designated for state assessments:

- 8th Reading Assessment (Hobbs, Moore & Smokorowski) - February 15-17
- 7th Reading Assessment (Moore) - February 15-17
- 7th Grade Reading Assessment (Doll, Gawith, & Riedy) - February 21-23
- 7th Grade Reading Assessment (Fettters) - February 27-29
- 6th Grade Reading Assessment (Casady & Holtzinger) - March 1-5
- 6th Grade Reading Assessment (Kohlman & Miller) - March 6-8
- 8th Grade Math Assessment (Holt) - March 12-14
- 7th Math Assessment (Alfaro's 7th Algebra classes) - March 12-14
- 7th Math Assessment (Martin's 7th Pre-Algebra classes) - March 27-29
- 6th Math Assessment (Alfaro's 6th Pre-Algebra classes) - March 27-29
- 6th Math Assessment (Daily & Ryan) - March 30-April 3
- 7th Grade Science Assessment (Gaede & Smith) - April 4-5
- 8th Social Studies Assessment (Helmer & Maddux) - April 9-10
- 7th Math Assessment (Martin's 7th Math class) - April 11-13
- 8th Math Assessment (Oyler) - April 11-13
- 6th Social Studies Assessment (Holmgren, Whetstone, & Woods) - April 16-17

It is imperative that your child be in attendance on these testing dates. In addition, please ensure that they eat breakfast prior to coming to school, and receive a good night's rest during these testing dates.

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From the Desk of Brent Jones, Athletic Director

The Pioneer League Basketball Tournament begins this week. The 7th / 8th Grade Girls will be playing at Valley Center Middle School and the 7th / 8th Grade Boys will be playing at Derby Middle School. The Quarterfinals are Saturday 2/4, the Semi-finals are Tuesday 2/7 and the Finals are Thursday 2/19. The teams have been playing very well and I anticipate a great tournament. Please remember that as the games grow more competitive and intense that we display positive sportsmanship. As coaches, players, parents, and fans our comments and conduct will leave a lasting impression on each other and opposing schools. Remarks made during the game should be both encouraging and supportive in nature.

Our wrestling team entered competitive competition on January 24. They have competed in one meets and a tournament so far. The team has been very competitive and exciting to watch. They have been practicing very hard and I expect a great season from them.

If your student/athlete is planning on participating in a spring sport please have them get a physical on file with me as soon as possible. I frequently receive physicals on the first day of practice and do not have time to process them. When this happens athletes and coaches miss critical practice time.

Reminders:

- Pioneer League Basketball Tournament will take place on February 4th, 7th and 9th.
- Boys' Tennis practice starts on February 27th. Contact Coach John Garrison for further information.
- Boys' and Girls' Track practice starts on March 5th. Contact Coach Matt Hobbs for further track information.

Go Trojans!

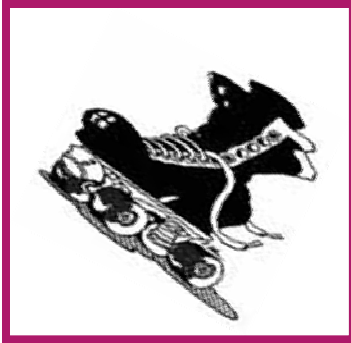
OFFICE NEWS

- ♥ 2/13 Lifetouch Spring Casual pictures (taken during science classes)
- ♥ 2/13 7th/8th Band Concert , 7:00 p.m. (AHS)
- ♥ 2/17 AMS Jazz Band to Friends University Jazz Festival
- ♥ 2/20 No School
- ♥ 2/24 Magazine Fundraiser begins
- ♥ 2/24 6th Grade WEB Social , 3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
- ♥ 3/6 Vocal Concert 7:30 p.m. (AHS)
- ♥ 3/8 End of 3rd quarter
- ♥ 3/9 All Schools Closed for Inservice
- ♥ 3/12 Spring Sports Parent Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
- ♥ 3/19 Beginning of Spring Break
- ♥ 3/26 School Resumes

Valentine's Day

Andover Middle School recommends that parents who want to send flowers to their children on Valentine's Day take care of this outside the school setting. Handling the many deliveries that can occur on this day is problematic for the office. Our office staff is extremely busy during the day. It becomes very difficult to take care of their regular duties while handling deliveries, notifying students of deliveries, watching to make sure nothing happens to the deliveries, and getting the flowers to the students. In addition, we want to avoid hurt feelings on the part of those students who do not receive flowers on this day. Finally, flowers can be damaged as they are transported home, especially if students ride the bus. If an arrangement is delivered to AMS, your student will be notified shortly before the end of school, and the student will pick up the arrangement at the end of the school day. Please call the office if you have further questions.

CHOIRS TO WORLDS OF FUN - April 21, 2012 On Saturday, April 21st, our 7th and 8th Grade Mixed Choir will have the opportunity to sing in the Festival of Choir, held at Worlds of Fun. Information will be sent home with students during February. We always welcome parental help to chaperone this fun event.



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Beginning on **March 1**, our Physical Education classes will be participating in an in-house skating program. The skates will be delivered directly to the school. **Due to insurance purposes, we will be exclusively using Skatetime’s skates.**

This skating unit is being implemented because of its emphasis as a “Lifetime Activity”. Skating provides a variety of benefits, which include balance, coordination, motor skills, and a top rated cardio-respiratory workout. Students will also learn basic skating skills such as starting, stopping, forward skating, backward skating, cornering, and a number of safety tips for being a smart skater. The fee for this unit will be **\$10.00** for quad skates.

The fee includes:

- Delivery, use, and pickup of the equipment (skates and wrist guards) for 5 days of skating during normal P.E. class.
- Any remaining proceeds will be used to purchase archery equipment to be added to the Physical Education curriculum and replace equipment as needed.

Please have your child return the bottom portion of this permission slip with the fee no later than **February 10, 2012.**

*If you would like to sponsor a student who is unable to meet the cost of skates; your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Donation amount: \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to **Andover Middle School**

I hereby grant permission for _____ to participate in the Skatetime program, and release Andover Middle School, AMS staff, and Skatetime from all liability which might be incurred during the conduct of this activity.

Signature of Participant



Signature of Parent/Guardian





Nurse's News Items:

We again want to thank all of the wonderful AMS families and AMSPO for sending supplies to the health office this year. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

I have sent **2nd notice** letters to the parents of all students that need immunizations. Students in 7th grade at this time need a Tdap (tetanus) and 2 Varicella (chicken pox). If we have a confirmed case of a disease for which your student is not adequately immunized against, they will be excluded from school for the incubation and contagious period, which could be up to 30 days. If your student received immunizations, please provide written documentation from the doctor with these dates. If your student has had the chicken pox disease, I need written documentation from your doctor of this. This is a new regulation from the health department.

Thank you to all the parents that have taken care of this.

PLEASE SEND WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR DOCTOR FOR THESE IMMUNIZATIONS BY FEBRUARY 15, 2012 IF YOUR STUDENT IS STILL DELINQUENT.

If your student has asthma and is participating in a sport, make sure the coach has an extra inhaler to keep available at all practices and games. We are unable to release the inhaler from the health office for athletic events or practices.

We have finished all hearing and vision screenings. All 6th and 8th graders had their vision checked, and all 7th graders had their hearing checked. If you have not received written notice of a problem, your student passed.

Remember, no medications may be given without a signed medication sheet from the parent and doctor. Please do not send medication to school with your student to take without this document. If you think your student will need over-the-counter medication this year, please have them stop in the nurse's office to pick up a form. You may have the doctor's office fax it back to us with a signature to 733-4165.

Please remember to keep your student home until 24 hours after starting an antibiotic for an infection. They also must stay home until they are fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea-free for 24 hours without medication.

The best defense against getting sick is frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds. It is important to do all we can to stay healthy. This includes eating a proper diet with plenty of water and getting enough sleep, both of which are a challenge for middle-school students.

Please have your student eat breakfast every day to help avoid mid-morning headaches and stomachaches. Also, please do not send energy drinks to school with your student. We have started allowing healthy snacks during class this year, which I think will help. *(continued on pg. 8)*

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**





CAN YOU HELP?

Mrs. Woods is in need of Clorox wipes & colored typing paper.

Thank you!

FOOD SERVICE—EMAIL NOTIFICATION

Lunch email notification is sent each Thursday for each meal account with a balance of **+\$30.00 and below**. You will be notified at your PowerSchool email address.

How to setup PowerSchool Email Notifications:

1. Log into PowerSchool, using your parent login username and password. If you do not have your username and password, contact your student's school.
2. Click the Email Notification icon at the top of the page.
3. Check the box beside any information you would like sent to your email address.
4. Select how often you would like to receive the emails.
5. Type in your email address.
6. Click submit.

Please remember that this is the email address that will be shared with Nutrikids, our lunch cashier system. We do not use PowerLunch, which is the lunch management portion of PowerSchool.

If you are having trouble receiving lunch email notifications, please review these steps:

1. Wrong address in PowerSchool
2. No email address in PowerSchool
3. Multiple email addresses in PowerSchool
4. Email provider is blocking email from Nutrikids

To correct items #1-3, please verify your email address in the *Guardian Email Notification* section of PowerSchool for each of your students. For item #4, contact your email provider to learn why this email is blocked. You may also contact Bonnie Scarth bonniescarth@usd385.org, in the Food Service Office, to verify your email address or to substitute a different email address.

If you do not have email or access to online account information, please contact the Food Service Office, (316) 218-4603 to receive current account information.

Ann Katt - Food Service Director

katta@usd385.org



Nurse's News Items: (Continued)

I do not give excuses for sports practices or PE. If your student has an issue (and doesn't have a fever or vomiting etc.), I will have them call you and you can decide if they should go to practice or not. It is then the student's responsibility to contact their coach. You may write a PE excuse for 1 day. If your student needs to miss more than 1 PE class, a doctor's note is required. They will need to make up the missed class before or after school.

Call the office if you have any contact information changes. Also check to make sure we have current emergency notification information in case we are unable to reach parents.

Have a safe and healthy New Year, and please call the health office if you have any questions or concerns. 218-4610 x3

Your AMS health office staff,

Tami Cairns RN

Barb Trekell RN

Lisa Henneke Health Clerk



6th ELP Students place 2nd in Knowledge Master Open

Students from practically every state and several countries competed January 25th in the 46th 5th and 6th Grade Knowledge Master Open academic competition. The 6th grade team from Andover Middle School, made up of 22 students, scored 715 of 1,000 possible points with 88 correct answers. Missing first place by a mere three points, they placed second in Kansas and 34th of 227 teams overall! Auk-celent job, kids!! Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado publishing firm, hosts the event. Full contest results and sample questions can be found at www.greatauk.com.

Counselor Corner - Mrs. Ingram

Chain Links Club

The Chain Links Club is currently working on several projects – two of which will benefit AMS as well as children and families with medical needs. Their pop tab project benefits Ronald McDonald House – buckets and cans are distributed throughout the building – encouraging students to drop their pop can tabs in them. Some friendly competition amongst grade levels will be in the works for spring. The other project is the on-going box tops collection. Students are asked to write their name on the back of the tops for some drawings of fun prizes. Other on-going projects of Chain Links include the new student group, the “letters of kindness” group and the overall goal of making the school and community a better place by being kind to others.

WEB – 6th Grade Social

Games, movies, karaoke, and social time are in store for 6th graders attending the 6th Grade WEB Social night on Friday, Feb. 24 from 3:00- 4:00 p.m. The 8th grade WEB leaders have planned an hour packed with interaction and activities for all 6th graders who attend. Please have rides here at 4:00 p.m.



FREE ENGINEERING EXPO

"A FREE engineering expo featuring hands-on activities for boys & girls will be held on Saturday February 25, 2012, 9am-12pm at the Spirit AeroSystems HR Service Center located at 3420 S. Oliver (SE corner of 31st St. South & Oliver) from 9am-12pm. It is presented by the Wichita section of the Society of Women Engineers in partnership with the WSU College of Engineering to show kids how engineering and science relate to the world around us. More info is at <http://wichitaswe.org/expo> or email expo@wichitaswe.org."



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Magazine Fundraiser

Our annual magazine fundraiser will kick off on Friday, February 24 with an afternoon assembly. The magazine fundraiser turn-in date will be on Monday, March 12 during 1st period. The profits from the fundraiser will go toward the following expenses:

- 2012-13 Pioneer League dues and KSHSAA expenses
- Technology upgrades, repairs, and purchase of additional technology for student use
- All monies raised by 8th graders will go towards Promotion expenses

A packet will come home with your child on February 24. Thanks in advance for your support! As always, participation by your student is optional.